

BAY CITY AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY (BCATS)

Policy Committee Minutes - December 19, 2012

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Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 1:31 P.M.

Those Present Were:

Dave Engelhardt, BCATS Director; Jack Wheatley, Rowe Engineering representing Bay City; Sue Fortune, EMCOG; Mark Galus, Fraser Township Supervisor; Tom Foret, Hampton Township Supervisor; Dan Harran, Bay City; Jim Lillo, Bay County Road Commission; Dennis Bragiel, Kawkawlin Township Supervisor; Gary Brandt, Monitor Township Supervisor; Dan Hansford, Essexville City Manager; Dirk Westbury, BCATS Staff, and; Cyndi Gaul, Secretary, BCATS Staff

Approval of Minutes:

It was moved by Bragiel, seconded by Wheatley, to approve the minutes to the October 17, 2012 meeting. Motion Passed.

Introductions were made as there were some new faces around the meeting table.

Public Comment:

There was no public comment brought before the committee.

Update From Bay Metro Transit:

Sprague was not present and no update was given.

BCATS 2011-14 TIP Amendments - MDOT & Road Commission:

Engelhardt provided a handout outlining the MDOT and Road Commission TIP amendments. The Road Commission has to change the Beaver Road Project Job Number as the old job number was abandoned. No one is quite sure how or why this happened. MDOT has a trunkline enhancement GPA project that will be region-wide and needs to be entered into the TIP.

A motion was made by Bragiel, seconded by Fortune to add the MDOT and Road Commission amendments for the Road Commission's Beaver Road Project and the MDOT Trunkline Enhancement GPA Project into the BCATS 2011-14 TIP. Motion Passed.

MAP-21 and STP Funding for FY2013 and FY2014+:

Engelhardt explained that over the last three months there has been a lot of review on how MAP-21 will affect the distribution of funds. It looks like funding for small MPOs will be down dramatically for 2013-14 and beyond. Engelhardt has been trying to determine if MDOT can find any funds to increase the MPO funding. Since the Federal funding to the State is fixed, any increases to the small MPOs would have to come from another State program. It's possible the State may look at using the approximately \$55 million of unobligated funds as a way to cover the shortfall. Engelhardt has been writing letters and contacting people at the MDOT level to see what, if anything, can be done.

BCATS 2014-17 TIP:

Engelhardt briefly discussed the BCATS 2014-2017 TIP and explained that it was important for everyone to submit projects for the TIP by mid-January. Engelhardt would like to see a list of projects submitted for the February 2013 BCATS Technical Meeting for review and prioritization. By February 2013, we should have more funding information.

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Adjusted Census Urban Boundary (ACUB):

Westbury provided a map for review that showed the adjusted census urban boundary being proposed by BCATS in order to smooth out the Urban Area from the 2010 Census. The 2000 Census Urban Area went up to Linwood bringing Fraser Twp into BCATS. In the 2010 Census, the Urban Area did not go that far north. However, the area still has some urban characteristics so it is included in BCATS staff proposed ACUB. There was discussion on the benefits and drawbacks to that area being included in the Urban Area. Lillo would like to have a meeting with Galus and Bragiel to further discuss the funding benefits and/or drawback to having Fraser Township and the additional parts of Kawkawlin Twp included into the ACUB. No motion was made at this time. Approval of the ACUB will take place at the next meeting in February 2013.

MOU with SMATS Regarding Urban Boundary:

Westbury provided a map to show how the Saginaw Metropolitan Area Transportation Study (SMATS) urbanized area comes into the BCATS geographic area in Frankenlust Township. Engelhardt has spoken with the SMATS director and he shared the Genesee County/SMATS MOU so that Bay County could create an MOU with Saginaw County. Engelhardt used the language and created an MOU with SMATS that states that Bay County will continue to do the transportation study in this area. Engelhardt spoke with Bay County's Corporation Counsel and was told that the Chairman of the BCATS Policy Committee (Jim Lillo) should sign the agreement with Saginaw County.

A motion was made by Fortune, seconded by Hansford, to approve the MOU with SMATS regarding the urban boundary of Saginaw that comes into the BCATS geographic area and granting authorization to Jim Lillo, Chairman of the BCATS Policy Committee to sign the MOU. Motion Passed.

Principal Arterial Function Review (National Highway System):

Westbury provided a map to show the current principal arterial roads and the National Highway System. The group has been asked to review the current roads under this classification and to make recommendations for any changes they see would be needed in the BCATS area. Engelhardt brought up the role of intermodal connectors in the NHS and how Wilder Rd east of Truman Parkway could be classified as an intermodal connector. BCATS staff will review the definition and benefits of classifying the road as an intermodal connector. Engelhardt would like to have all final comments by the February 2013 meeting.

BCATS Annual Report:

Westbury provided a handout of a draft copy of the 2012 BCATS Annual Report for the group to review. There were no changes or comments. The report will run as a full-page ad in the Bay City Democrat at the end of the year on December 27, 2012.

Midland MPO Status:

Engelhardt explained that Midland has reached the 50,000 population threshold and is eligible to create their own MPO. This new Midland MPO will include areas in Saginaw and Bay Counties. Midland is still in the process of organizing this new MPO and will be submitting their request to the Governor soon. Once the Governor approves their request to create a new MPO, the request will be forwarded to FTA and FHWA for approval. If Midland acts quickly, they may be able to be eligible for both MPO STP Funds and small

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urban STP Funds during the new MPO's first year. Currently, the new MPO will have 20 voting members including some from both Saginaw and Bay Counties.

Project Updates:

The Road Commission **Midland Rd Project** is on track and in design mode. This project should be ready to go bid in February or March 2013. Currently the City of Bay City has no projects scheduled for 2013. The **Johnson Street Project** is wrapping up and will be completed by the end of the year.

Other/New Business:

BCATS Bylaws - Yearly Approval:

Engelhardt discussed that the BCATS Bylaws state that the Chairmanship should be approved by the committee every year. This will be placed on the February 2013 meeting agenda for approval.

As there was no further business, the December 19, 2012 BCATS Policy Committee meeting was adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

David Engelhardt
BCATS Director

Transcribed by C. Gaul

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